

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AF-10 SY-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 200640Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0984

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S CALL ON DEPUTY PRIMIN-
DEFMIN BARNARD

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL CALLED ON DEPUTY PRIMIN-
DEFMIN BARNARD FEBRUARY 19. BARNARD REPORTED PRIMIN WHITLAM
HAD BEEN EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT SEA SWING. BARNARD
ALSO EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF JANUARY
TALKS ON U.S. FACILITIES, AND ADDED THAT OUTCOME HAD BEEN
FAVORABLY RECEIVED IN AUSTRALIA. HE STATED GOA HAS NOT YET
DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT AS HE HAS NOT HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PRIMIN. BARNARD HOPED TO
MINIMIZE DEBATE ON SUBJECT, AND PRITCHETT, WHO WAS ALSO
PRESENT, NOTED GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUBMIT
SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENT FOR CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR GREEN
CONGRATULATED BARNARD ON HIS SKILLFUL HANDLING OF ISSUE IN
AUSTRALIA.

2. ON DIEGO GARCIA, BARNARD STATED GOA WAS SOMEWHAT DISTRESSED
IT HAD NOT HAD MORE ADVANCE NOTICE PRIOR TO USG PUBLIC RELEASE OF
INTENTIONS TO ENLARGE FACILITY. DEFMIN STATED HE HAD SUCCEEDED,
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HE THOUGHT, IN "CONTAINING" PRIMIN'S REACTION BY POINTING OUT

TO WHITLAM THAT GOA, GIVEN ITS POSTURE ON NOT CRITICIZING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, COULD NOT NOW TAKE ISSUE WITH U.S. BUILD-UP IN THAT AREA. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE POSTURE IN THIRD WORLD, AND SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS, OF NECESSITY TEMPERED AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDE ON DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE, BARNARD NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED VIEW PRIMIN WILL NOT HAVE MUCH DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING ISSUE TO BASIC SATISFACTION OF U.S. BOTH BARNARD AND SIR VICTOR SMITH, WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE, EXPRESSED ENDORSEMENT OF U.S. DIEGO GARCIA PLANS AND ADVANTAGE TO AUSTRALIA IN MAINTAINING EQUILIBRIUM IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

3. REMAINDER OF INGERSOLL CALL DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND INGERSOLL'S IMPRESSIONS DURING RECENT VISIT. BARNARD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT INDONESIAN SITUATION, NOTING THAT DURING RECENT UNREST PRESIDENT SUHARTO WAS SUFFICIENTLY APPREHENSIVE TO HAVE NAMED HIS SUCCESSOR, I.E., INDONESIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, IN EVENT OF SUHARTO'S ASSASSINATION. BARNARD ADDED THAT GOA IS CONCERNED INDONESIA MUST HANDLE SITUATION CORRECTLY IF AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE SUPPORT TO GOI IS TO BE SUSTAINED.

4. OTHER GENERAL SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED THAILAND, KHMER AND VIETNAMESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND PRC ATTITUDES TOWARD SEA.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER00984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaauoi.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S CALL ON DEPUTY PRIMIN- DEFMIN BARNARD
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US, (INGERSOLL), (BARNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005